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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS NOT COMMITTING THEMSELVES

Approval Of Estimates Not An Approval Of Income Tax Relief Expenditure Cut

"I speak on behalf of all my unofficial colleagues present, and we wish to make it clear that by voting for this resolution we are in no way prejudicing our freedom of action on any proposals that may come before this Council in regard to the Salaries and Business Tax," declared the Hon. Mr. D. F. Landale, speaking at yesterday's meeting of Legislative Council.

Earlier, the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. D. M. MacDougall C.M.G., moving the adoption of the Select Committee's Report on the Financial Estimates, revealed that on the Committee's recommendations the estimate of revenue was unchanged and the estimate of expenditure increased by about \$300,000.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1947-48, incorporating the amendments of the Select Committee, were then read a third time and approved.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, moving the adoption of the Select Committee's Report, said: "The unofficial discussions which took place between the unofficial members and the Hon. Financial Secretary and myself in the previous few days have enabled the Select Committee to present the official report this afternoon. I trust that the Committee's recommendations are clearly set out in the report.

"The net effect of these recommendations is to leave unchanged the estimate of revenue and to increase the estimate of expenditure by about \$300,000. This sum is largely taking into the current expenditure from the last schedule.

"Apart from these transfers the only significant alteration is the recommended reduction of half a million dollars under provision 19 for the relief of destitute persons. This recommendation results from the conviction expressed by several members of the Committee that relief expenditure must somehow be checked and that continued efforts must be made to confine the weight of the Colony's generosity primarily to its own citizens. In this connection Council will no doubt be glad to hear that in the past year the number of persons receiving free meals was reduced by a process of regular scrutiny and inspection from 25,000 to 6,000. This number in relief camps, by a similar process of scrutiny, was brought down from 3,500 to 500 at the end of the year. Many of these persons were, of course, Hong Kong people.

"During yesterday's debate a number of other points concerning medical matters were raised by honourable members, and no doubt Council will in due course welcome further information on this point.

Lingnan University

"I would like to mention here the unanimous desire to mark the continuation of friendly relations between Lingnan University in Canton and the Colony. This desire is embodied in the recommendation to make the University a grant of \$30,000 from the public funds of Hong Kong.

"I have said that the Committee recommends no alteration in the estimates of revenue; and so it will be quite wrong of me to convey any impression that at any stage and on any occasion during our deliberations our honourable friend the Financial Secretary was accused of over-optimism. The Committee has been content to leave the figures of the revenue unaltered.

"Before I take my seat I would like to pay tribute from my honourable friend the Financial Secretary and myself to the co-operation and help we have had from the unofficial colleagues on the Select Committee. I am sure also that their part my honourable friends would also wish me to express their appreciation of all the work the Financial Secretary and his assistants put into the preparation of this Budget.

"An Exciting Life" My honourable friend had an exciting life during the last three weeks. The able memorandum which accompanied the draft estimates

Property Allocation Statement

A statement on the allocation and rate of release of requisitioned property was laid on the table at yesterday's meeting of Legislative Council.

The statement said:—At the beginning of September, 1946, 584 premises were under requisition by the Quarantine Authority. Of these 491 were in use by the Services and 93 by the Government.

In conformity with their assurance to make an equitable allocation of this property between the Services, the Government and the civilian population, the authorities have continued every effort over the last six months to achieve a fairer distribution.

At the end of February this year, as a result of these activities, the 584 premises in question have been re-allocated as follows: 262 have been de-requisitioned and released for civilian use; the Services holding has been reduced to 254; and the Government retains 68 premises, about half of which is domestic property. It is not known how many of the 262 properties released to civilians have been occupied respectively by Chinese and Europeans.

The Quarantine Authority hopes to maintain de-requisition at a rate of about 35 premises per month for some months until properties under requisition drop to 20 in number. Beyond that figure great difficulty is foreseen and the rate of de-requisition is expected to slow down very materially.

22nd of March, 16,121 passengers arrived in Kowloon from Canton and intermediate stations, the vast majority from Canton itself. (Continued on page 10 col. 4)

Can't Get Answer, M.P.'s Complaint

London, Mar. 27. Sir Waldron Smithers, Con., in a letter to "The Times" today complained that the Minister of Food, Mr. Strachey, refused to answer his questions on prices paid abroad for bulk purchases of food and fodder, prices charged the British public and profit or loss to taxpayers.

"The letter said 'I give three instances. They come from reliable sources... I challenge Mr. Strachey to say to what extent they are in accordance with truth. I do not know.

"1. Was there a difference of £40,000,000 between the price paid by the Argentine Government to their growers and the price charged the British Government on the recent purchase of oil seeds?

"2. Did the Argentine Government, by law the only buyer, purchase from its growers 500,000 tons of wheat at about \$12 a ton and charge the British Government \$34 a ton?

"3. Is it true that, recently representatives of Argentine sellers of linseed offered a quantity to private firms at \$65 a ton and the deal was suddenly taken over by the two Governments with the result that Britain paid some say, \$135 a ton and others \$175 a ton?

"Further questions were not permitted. I can raise the matter in debate. This I did, and

NO EATING HOUSE PROBERS

With reference to the statements which have appeared in the effect that investigators of the Inland Revenue Department have been sent to inspect Eating Houses, Hotels, Eating Houses, Money Changers, Pawnbrokers, etc., the Commissioner of Inland Revenue wishes it to be known that no such investigators have been sent out by him. A representative of the Commissioner who is required to call upon any person for any reason will be provided with a letter of authority. The public are warned to be on their guard against persons who may falsely represent themselves to be acting on behalf of the Commissioner and are asked to co-operate by reporting to the Police any attempt by unauthorised persons to obtain information or entry in this manner.

"Yunnan" Master Fined

Sydney, Mar. 28. Captain Francis Booth, skipper of the British ship "Yunnan" (2,812 tons) was today fined £1,400 for bringing in 14 prohibited Chinese immigrants to Australia as stowaways.

Captain Booth said that he did not realise that the Chinese, who had paid their passage but had no landing permits, would be classified as "stowaways."

The hearing of other charges against the owners, the China Navigation Company, were adjourned.—Reuter.

EARTHQUAKE

Rome, Mar. 28. A severe earthquake tremor was felt in Palermo today according to the Italian News Agency. A shock was also reported from Sicily, 45 miles west of Palermo.

No damage has been reported so far, but the tremors rattled windows and caused doors to fly open.—Reuter.

THE WEATHER

A weak anticyclone has again become established over China. A depression is moving eastward to the south of Japan and deepening. Pressure is lowest over the Kuriels.

Today's forecast—Light N or variable winds, probably freshening somewhat from NE; fair and warm with mist or haze.

Yesterday's Weather—Maximum: 70.0 deg. F. Minimum: 53.2 deg. F. Sunshine: 10.7 hours. Rainfall: Nil. Total since January 1—16.1 mm. as against an average of 16.2 mm.

Readings at 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Bar. at sea: 1017.5 1016.7 m.b. Bar. at land: 1017.5 1016.7 m.b. Humidity: 77 66 % Dew Point: 67 64 deg. F. Wind Direction: WNW W by N Wind Force: 3 2 knots

Tokyo, Mar. 28. In a letter to Shigeru Yoshida, Japanese Premier, the Allied Supreme Commander, General Douglas MacArthur, today warned that unless determined measures were taken immediately by the Japanese Government, inflation, with its attendant maldistribution of food, retarding of industrial recovery and hampering of social progress would be certain.—Reuter.

ON OTHER PAGES

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INTERVIEW WITH NEW GOVERNOR

San Francisco, Mar. 28. Sir Alexander Grant-Ham, newly appointed Governor of Hong Kong, believes the Chinese can profit immensely by forgetting wartime differences and co-operating with Japanese scientists, he said during a stop-over here en route to London.

He also believes Hong Kong will remain British.

He said there are many well-trained technicians among the Japanese, who can be constructively useful in their respective fields with beneficial results to the Chinese as well as themselves.

Sir Alexander's wife, former Maureen Sanson of Piedmont, California, is with him. They are going to London before he takes over the post.

Sir Alexander said he saw no particular reason to worry over the troubled world situation of the moment.

"I don't think there will be a threat of war in a foreseeable future. No country wants it. And if we examine our positions today compared with twelve months ago we will see that a great deal of progress can be made in material co-operation."

"Very Bad Way"

Sir Alexander goes to Hong Kong from Fiji. He is convinced the Colony always will remain a British Colony, he said, because even the Chinese desire it. He said the war left the island in a "very bad way" but its rehabilitation "is one of those things which will just have to work itself out."

He said one of the greatest problems of the moment is what to do with destitute refugees. It is physically impossible to keep them out, he said. Even if moral considerations did not enter, "they have to be taken care of. Otherwise, they threaten the peace, security and health of the regular inhabitants," he declared.—Associated Press.

New Delhi, Mar. 28. The Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten, and Pandit Nehru, Vice-President of the Indian Union Government, will each receive delegations to the All-Asian Relations Conference here today, says the New Delhi radio.—Reuter.

Marshall Accuses Russia

Moscow, Mar. 27. The United States Secretary of State, General Marshall, today accused Russia of seizing property alleged to constitute German assets which were really stolen from victims of German persecution.

Marshall made his charges after M. Molotov, Soviet Foreign Minister, in effect told him in a long memorandum that it was none of his (Marshall's) business what the Russians were doing in the Austrian zone regarding "German" assets.

Molotov, however, tonight showed signs of yielding in the Big Four dispute over German assets in Austria, which is blocking progress on the Austrian treaty.

Molotov agreed in principle to the writing by the deputies of the definition of German assets — the crux of the dispute. The assets in Eastern Austria are to be used as reparations for Russia.

The Soviets agreed to define such assets, with assurances that they would not include Austrian property seized by force or duress by the Germans after the Anschluss. Marshall insisted the United States would not agree to such property being used as reparations. The Foreign Ministers decided to abstain from the French compromise proposal for a directive to the deputies and

the Soviet amendment to it. Meanwhile, the Russians and British exchanged assurances that the obligations of the Potsdam agreement would be carried out.

Nazi Warships Molotov promised that the warships which Russia took from Germany would be destroyed by August and Britain promised that the work corps of former German prisoners in her zone would be disbanded by the end of the year.

The Council also discussed the financial situation of the free territory of Trieste, sending a report thereon to the Yugoslav and Italian governments.

The Ministers decided to ask the Yugoslav and Italian governments for the views in writing on Trieste finances.

Select Committee Report

Recommends Increase In Expenditure

The report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending March 31, 1948, recommended an increase of expenditure from \$109,488,433 to \$109,834,355, reducing the surplus on revenue from \$351,317 to \$5,395.

Additional expenditure with regard to the Colonial Secretariat and Legislature was recommended to provide for the rent, maintenance and upkeep of a Hollerith machine and the local appointment of a Hollerith Supervisor and subordinate staff.

With recommended provision for temporary staff to deal with the Exchange Control in order to provide a more efficient organisation in this department and other adjustments, the Committee recommended an increase of expenditure under this head from \$470,048 to \$555,030.

The report revealed that the Committee approved in principle but wished to have fuller information on the proposal to provide free milk and vitamin biscuits to school children. It was agreed that the Committee would ask the Honourable Director of Medical Services and the Director of Education for a comprehensive report on the subject.

The appointment of supernumerary Assistant Crown Solicitor, to assist in the despatch of accumulated arrears of work in the various branches of the Legal Department was recommended.

Further Economy The report recommended further economy in the application of Government funds toward the provision of relief for destitute persons and recommended reduction of the appropriation under this subhead from \$1,500,000 to \$1,000,000.

With regard to the Prisons Department, the Committee recommended increase in the establishment of temporary Portuguese and Chinese warders to staff the new Reformatory.

The warning was a sequel to the landing here on March 20 of an R.A.F. Dakota from Hong Kong, carrying the British civil aviation mission, which military authorities said allegedly made the flight without previous notification and approval.

The plane was detained 48 hours before being allowed to return to Hong Kong.—Associated Press.

NEW TREASURY NOTES

Nanking, Mar. 28. It was officially confirmed here today that the interest on the three-year Treasury Notes which the Chinese Government are issuing shortly will be 20 per cent and not two per cent as previously reported.—Reuter.

Canton Ready To Shoot!

Canton, Mar. 28. Chinese military authorities here announced today that unauthorized foreign planes flying over Canton are liable to be shot down.

The warning was a sequel to the landing here on March 20 of an R.A.F. Dakota from Hong Kong, carrying the British civil aviation mission, which military authorities said allegedly made the flight without previous notification and approval.

The plane was detained 48 hours before being allowed to return to Hong Kong.—Associated Press.

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it there was a need for higher taxation in the Colony, and that he approved in general of some form of taxation such as that proposed in the Inland Revenue Ordinance—or income tax—was stated by the Hon. Mr. A. Morse C.B.E., Chairman and Chief Manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, yesterday.

to H.K.\$9,002,703. I would remain in effect that until such time as our war losses could be ascertained, with reasonable accuracy, no month would be set aside. I am glad to say that your directors feel that the present position justifies a payment to shareholders and it is proposed to pay a dividend of 2 1/2 pence which is 2 1/2% of the share capital of H.K.\$7,760,842 and leaves the sum of H.K.\$1,841,801 to be carried forward to next year.

You will be interested to know that the new minority stock office, including agencies, is in operation, while we have recovered possession of two more which have not yet been opened. Several of the new agencies called on to Xerox have opened a new office in New York. As soon as I can

questionable. The necessarily increasing exports is obvious to the Chinese authorities as how to bring the import surplus by increasing exports and especially those from Manchuria and Mongolia. Manchuria's production was producing seventy-seven million tons of grain, including beans and bean products, its ports had reached forty-two percent of the exports of the whole of China. Its export surplus in 1931 was just under seven million tons. It was known that all Manchuria has been a source of appointment since hostilities ceased but the bean trade should develop quickly once military operations cease. The Manchurian government's philosophy of that time has been pillaged in a disastrous way and it may take a decade to restore it to its former condition. Nor has Formosa yet come into an export surplus. The United States and an export surplus of U.S. \$100 million while the rice and other exports have amounted to U.S. \$100 million.

The Staff

Finally I want to say a word about the Bank staff. During the past year the services of a number of the Foreign Staff were lost to the Bank through illness, having suffered either directly attributable to their having suffered either prisoners of war or as interned, and there are some officers said to leave whose ultimate return to duty is doubtful. I am sure that the Bank had a hard time during the war and many of them had long separations from their families. I have, therefore, tried to ensure the restoration of the maximum amount of comfort in places where our properties were damaged and where conditions continued abnormal. I have served to wives and children of the staff, as quickly as possible, and can be found ever of maintaining our contact with the staff and their families. I am sure that the staff will agree that conditions

While I am on these social and economic themes, I propose to break even with tradition in the seconding of the Report by asking for a contribution to the cost of the expenditure which may bring no immediate return to us in profits but which may be a contribution to the economic well-being of the Far East that at present this Institution alone is competent to make. I am sure that the existence of an economic enquiry branch where properly coordinated and digested statistics of the agriculture, industries, commerce of these areas can be compiled and made available to all I can see a commercial value in this work, but that it is not a personal interest. Without it, I am sure that the scientific economic studies which should be the preliminary of all the vast social experiments that the Far East will be carrying will be partly ill-informed and uncoordinated. The Bank has the same in all the countries of the world. It is outside of this view of persons interested in the Far East, that I am speaking, and I am sure that

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have pleasure in announcing the Report and Accounts, as presented.

Those Present

Supporting the Hon. Mr. Morse in the chair were the Hon. Mr. D. F. Landale, Hon. Mr. Dr. Gillespie and Messrs. Dodwell, W. M. O. C. Marsh, G. McKinnin, C. C. Marsh and H. D. Deane (Directors).

Shareholders present included the Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo Hon. Mr. T. N. Chau, Hon. Mr. M. S. Watson and Messrs. A. B. Macdonald, J. M. O'Connell, E. C. Abraham, T. H. G. Brayfield, C. Brown, P. S. Cassidy, N. V. Croucher, R. A. Dastur, J. Fleming, R. Y. Frost, Fung Ma, Henry H. Gilman, H. G. Gordon, J. L. Goss, The Life Insurance Society of Canton, T. M. Greig, B. Owen Hughes, J. Y. Y. Ho, J. R. Jones, Louis K. Kahn, Henry G. Long, Leung Fat Sing, MacGregor, J. A. D. Macgregor, A. Pollock, A. D. Robertson, J. B. Smith, J. W. Smith, J. B. Thorne, J. B. Thorne, A. Remondet.

Closing quotations:—
 Adams Express 10½, Alaska June
 8½, American Can 33½, American Em
 16½, American Express 16½, American
 American Tobacco 74½, American Wa
 works 17½, Anacunda Copper 44½
 Aviation Corporation 5½, Baid
 Leocentive 23, Barnhart 12½, B
 16½, Bingham 16½, Bingham 16½,
 Silver 2½, 20½, Steel 92½, Cen
 Canadian Pacific 12½, J. J. Case 2
 Chrysler 99, Colgate 30, Com
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 Electric Light & Power 77½, Gen
 Electric 36, General Motors 61½, G
 Rich 65½, Goodyear 18½, Gr
 10½, International Harvester 44½, I
 International Harvester 86, Internat
 43½, International Tel & Tel 1
 John Manville 175½, Kennecott Cop
 Johns 10½, Montgomery Ward 10½,
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 York Central 18½, Packard Motors
 Pan American Airways 134½, Pen
 vania Rtr 23, Republic 10½, Robb
 10½, Rockwell 10½, Seaboard 10½,
 Behlen 40½, Sears Roebuck 84½, S
 17½, Standard Vacuum 14½, Sout
 Pacific 43, Borden Baking 34½, C
 East Oil 10½, Eastman 10½, E
 10½, E. I. du Pont 10½, E. I. du
 10½, E. I. du Pont 10½, E. I. du
 28½, Union Carbide 90½, U.S. R
 69½, U.S. Steel 74½, Westinghou
 10½, Yellow 10½, Yonkers & Tu
 Yonkers & Tu 69½, Yonkers & Tu

W. A. Stewart, Wong Chi-p
E. Marden, Fr. E. Tourneur
presenting Societe M
d'Etranger. Mr. E. B. St
and Mrs. G. E. Marden.
On the motion of Mr. J.
Williamson, seconded by M
F. MacGregor, the Hon. Mr
D. Gillespie and Mr. G. M
were re-elected to the Board
Members. Past Master, Wm
& Co. and Master, John Sim
Matthews were appointed
clerk on the motion of the
Hon. W. Chisholm, seconded by
P. S. Connelley.

TENANCY PROCLAMATION

Criticism At Estate Company Meeting

"Serious Problem" For Landlords

"At present the general expenses borne by the real estate companies have proved to be many times heavier than those before the war. This, together with the cost of repairs necessitated by damages by the war, is a serious problem with which they are faced," said Mr. Leung Kwai-tin, Chairman of Chinese Estates Ltd., at the Annual General Meeting of shareholders yesterday.

Mr. Leung added: "It is earnestly to be hoped that Government will at an early date make amendments to the Landlords and Tenants Proclamation."

Proposing the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, Mr. Leung said:—

"The net profit for the year, after providing for reserve for depreciation on China Building, (\$300,000.00), directors' and auditors' fees, and all expenses, amounts to \$151,707.59, which, added to \$11,709.24 brought forward from last account, shows a total of \$163,416.83.

"The results of our operations in the year under review are gratifying, the income from rents reaching the figure of \$344,818.00. But, in spite of the strictest economy, our expenditure shows an excess over that of all previous years owing to the high cost of materials and labour. Extensive structural repairs and renewals are required on China Building as the result of damage caused by the war, and of the fact that these works had to be unavoidably delayed for several years. So far, only those that were most necessary have been effected, and much has yet to be done, involving heavy expenditure."

Increased Fees

"As no provision has been made in the last four years for reserve for depreciation on China Building, your Directors have decided to allocate to this item the sum of \$50,000. Now that normal conditions have returned and with a view to making up for the deficiency of the past, they consider it prudent to strengthen our financial position."

"The item 'directors' and auditors' fees' shows an increase of \$3,575 over that of the preceding year. The revision of the auditors' fee is in accordance with the new scale of charges laid down by the Auditors' Association to meet prevailing economic conditions. The proposed increase to the directors' fees by \$500 a year each is due to the facts that ever since the incorporation of the company 28 years ago the fees have remained unchanged, that cost of living has increased many-fold as compared with that obtaining before the war; and that the work of the directors has become heavier and more onerous since the outbreak of the war. Your directors feel therefore that the present fee of \$500 a year is not commensurate with prevailing conditions. As, however, the matter concerns themselves personally, they would leave it to your decision when the report and accounts come before you presently for adoption."

Cost Of Repairs

"An interim dividend of \$4 a share has already been paid, and your directors are now pleased to recommend a final dividend of \$4 a share for the year. The total amount of dividends for the year is less than that declared in the two or three years immediately preceding the war. It should, however, be remembered that many repairs and renewals have yet to be effected. Indeed, had the cost required for such works been set aside, we would not have been able to declare even the dividend we now propose."

"At present the general expenses borne by the real estate companies have proved to be many times heavier than those before the war. This, together with the cost of repairs necessitated by damages caused by the war, is a serious problem with which they are faced."

"It seems that in determining the terms of the Landlords and Tenants Proclamation, the Government omitted to give consideration to the prevailing price-level and to the position of the landlord. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Government will at an early date make amendments to the Proclamation on an equitable basis."

"After payment of the final dividend which absorbs \$60,000, there will be a balance of \$31,596.83, which your directors propose, with your approval, to carry forward to the new account."

"I wish on behalf of the company to express sincere thanks to the Secretary and the other members of the staff for their good work during the year."

Unbiased Views

Seconding the motion for the adoption of the accounts, Mr. Fung Shing-bong said:—

"I am sure you are voicing the sentiment of all shareholders when they say that it is due to the war and the damage it has caused that the company is in the position it is in."

and the loyal support of the staff that this company has been able to pass through the difficult times of the war, and is working under normal conditions. To them, shareholders, owe a great debt of gratitude. As to the proposed increase in the Directors' fees, I am of the opinion that conditions of today are not the same as those of twenty years ago, and that in view of the increased work and responsibilities of our directors, I consider that the proposed figure cannot be said to be adequate. I therefore strongly support the proposal which is very fair."

"The Chairman has expressed his view on the inequitable terms of the Landlords and Tenants Proclamation. I fully share his views which are totally unbiased, and I share the Chairman's strong hope that the Government will at an early date make amendments to the Proclamation so as to accord fair treatment to both the landlords and the tenants."

After the report and statement of accounts had been adopted, Messrs. Fung Pin-fan, Leung Ting-kin and Li Ka-ze were re-elected directors. Mr. Li Tung was re-elected auditor.

New Blast From Moscow

Radio Moscow charged today that "diehard reactionaries" in the United States House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee have launched a drive against sections of American labour to "pave the way for an expansionist programme outlined in President Truman's recent foreign policy speech."

Commentator Oasipov claimed that the Committee members, whom he termed "100 per cent diehard reactionaries," are ignoring the "reviving activity of Fascist organisations."

He said it was only necessary to subscribe to Henry Wallace's magazine "New Republic" to "get yourself listed as a Communist.... The Republican Party appears to intend to use the Red scare in preparation for the presidential elections."

The broadcast also claimed that the Committee, "inspired by big business," had introduced a bill in Congress to "convert the Federal Bureau of Investigation into a self-governing body endowed with the same powers as the German Gestapo."

Swedish-Soviet Dispute

Stockholm, Mar. 27. Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, Swedish Minister for Trade, announced today that the Soviet Union had asked certain Swedish firms to pay for their imports from Russia in dollars.

The Swedish Government would take the matter up with the Soviet Trade Representative in Sweden, he said, since the Swedish-Soviet trade agreement provided for all payments in Swedish crowns.

"There is no need to link these incidents with our import restrictions nor to presume they mean any Russian lack of confidence in the Swedish crown," he declared—Reuter.

Sugar Ration To End

Washington, Mar. 28. The Senate voted 45 to 35 today to end sugar rationing on October 31.

It also decided that this year's allotment should be 35 lb. per person for home use. The allotment for last year was 25 lb.

The prewar consumption was about 50 lb.

The action to end the rationing came with the acceptance of an amendment to the bill to extend the present sugar controls one year beyond the expiration date of next Monday.

FUR HAUL

London, Mar. 28. A well-organised gang of fur thieves stole \$10,000 worth of pelts and coats from the fashionable Dickins and Jones store early today.

The police theorised that a woman posing as a patron "caused" the fur department and drove a detailed plan, which was used during the robbery. The thieves gained entrance with a skeleton key and loaded their loot into a truck.—United Press.

A Fighting Parson

London, Mar. 27. A pen portrait of the Rev. Michael Scott, who was convicted in Johannesburg on Tuesday for living among natives without a permit, was published in the News Chronicle, the leading Liberal newspaper, today.

A drawing of the 40-year-old parson once the curate of fashionable Kensington Parish and earmarked for an early bishopric, looked across a five-column tribute with the sub-heading "The Parson Who Always Fights for the Underdog."

The article described how Kensington parishioners of 15 years ago took him enthusiastically to their bosoms until they found that his sermons "instead of giving them soothing syrup which they expected, were challenges, onslaughts on their hearts and consciences."

When they felt they could no longer put up with him, the Rev. Scott reached the same opinion about them and transferred to a poverty-stricken part in the East End of London. It was there that writer Jane Orme met him.

"The climax came" with the humber crash of 1914 when Father Michael was approached for hospitality for the women's contingent. He installed camp beds in his small workman's cottage and the sensation this caused in the parish and the allegations of immorality resulting from a single young curate harbouring 30 women, resulted in another climax.

"Father Michael, still bitten by the bug to make things better for his fellow men, went off to India as, I think, chaplain to the Bishop of Bombay."

Now he has bobbed up in South Africa. It makes one very humble when one thinks of him now in an African court.

"There is a popular idea that men of noble stature are not being bred these days; don't you believe it. They are—if you look hard enough"—Reuter.

Paulette's Hair In Terrible Mess

London, Mar. 26. Paulette Goddard sashayed across the lobby of her fashionable West End Hotel today, her dark tresses littered with curlers and a brown scarf over her head. "My hair is in a terrible mess at the moment," she remarked.

And because of her topknot—or rather, the person who cares for it—more than 1,000 persons are idle and the US\$2,000,000 Alexander Korda technicolour production "An Ideal Husband" was held up for the second day.

The 24 make-up artists who struck in protest against Miss Goddard's American hairdresser, (Swedish-born Hedvig Mjorud) were scheduled to meet tonight to hear a report from their Union Secretary, Tom O'Brien.

Orders for Paulette and for Diana Wynyard, Michael Wild- and other British players to report to the set were cancelled today and a studio spokesman said he did not know whether work would be resumed tomorrow.

Labour Permit

O'Brien, General Secretary of the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, said discussions were under way with appropriate American representatives to authorize an exchange of personnel. Miss Mjorud, a member of an American Union, had a Ministry of Labour permit to work in England.

British union hairdressers walked off the set at 9 a.m. yesterday as Miss Goddard's hair just set by Mjorud—walked on. They said they objected to a "foreigner" dressing hair in a union shop. Work was stopped at the entire studio, which is located at Shepperton, 10 miles west of London.

Miss Goddard has dressed Miss Goddard's hair for four years. Paulette said, "ever since she found me and showed me how my hair should be done."—United Press.

All Over

London, Mar. 27. The British hair stylists ended their three-day strike tonight and decided that Paulette Goddard's tresses could be done.

Scientists' Latest Pleasantry

Berkeley, Cal. Mar. 28. A scientist who saw Nagasaki atom-bombed raises the possibility that future war might produce a radioactive mustard gas which could turn cities into deserted cemeteries.

Dr. Philip Morrison, Cornell University physicist and one of the three scientists who flew on the atomic bombing mission of Nagasaki, says that mustard gas could be made doubly poisonous by radioactivity. It would cling to the surfaces of the city and drive everyone from the city "for many months or years."

Morrison, addressing a conference on the control of atomic energy, said the construction of an underground bomb shelter to protect civilians from atomic bombs would be futile. Atomic bombs could be made to explode not only under the sea but also beneath the earth's surface.

He pointed out that super-atomic bombs could be made from light elements such as hydrogen or helium and they would be "many thousands of times more powerful than the bombs exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

Turning to the constructive uses of atomic energy, Morrison predicted that atomic energy would be in practical use by 1950, producing larger amounts of electrical power.—United Press.

Parasites To Be Put To Work

Paris, Mar. 27. The French Labour Minister, M. Croizat, announced today that the Government has introduced a bill in the National Assembly to draft into essential work all "parasitical elements" to meet the country's desperate need for workmen.

Croizat told a press conference that France would also use 30,000 prisoners now jailed to fill the labour deficit caused by the imminent departure of German war prisoners "which has been imposed on us by the American Government."

He said France needed 580,000 more workers and "we must recruit all persons who by virtue of their occupations—or lack of these—are classed as parasites."

Berlin Paper Suspended

Berlin, Mar. 26. The Soviet licensed Berlin newspaper "Berlin Am Mittag" has been suspended for three days and fined 5,000 marks (\$125) for attacking M. Georges Bidault, French Foreign Minister.

The article, according to the official Soviet newspaper, "Tagliche Rundschau" today, "insulted" M. Bidault by referring to the statement by the Minister, declaring France's willingness to absorb a portion of Germany's surplus population as "a false theory."

The action appeared to be on direct Russian initiative. Official circles said that there had been no French protest over the article.—Reuter.

BANISHMENT IN SINGAPORE

London, Mar. 26. The Banishment (Amendment) Ordinance of 1941 was operative in the Colony of Singapore, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Arthur Green Jones, said in a Parliamentary reply today.

Mr. Charles Smith (Labour) had asked how many persons had been arrested under this Ordinance up to 1947 and how many were held at present.

Mr. Green Jones added that he was in consultation with the Government of Singapore and would write Mr. Smith as soon as he received a reply.—Reuter.

AUSTERITY AND SNOOPING

Dundee, Mar. 28. More than 1,000 Scottish housewives tonight passed a resolution declaring that they were weary of "devastating austerity" and "subjection to wholly unnecessary snooping."

They called for immediate alleviation of their "almost intolerable burden" and decided to send the resolution to the Prime Minister.—United Press.

Tiny Body In Woman's Lung

Rome, Mar. 27. Vestiges of a tiny human body were discovered in the right lung of a woman operated on for a pulmonary cyst by Professor Giuseppe Lino, the eminent surgeon, today.

Explaining the phenomenon, Professor Lino said the body was "generated by certain residuary vestiges of primordial tissues from which all the various species of normal body tissues develop, such as the eyes and hair."

The name of the patient was not disclosed.

Professor Lino also disclosed that the "residue" had infiltrated into the patient's right lung at her birth.

He added: "we must therefore infer that the patient should have been the twin sister of another human body which developed among the tissues of her lung."

He said similar cases were known to medical science.—United Press.

U.S. Report On A Free Press

New York, Mar. 26. Freedom of the press can only continue if the Press is accountable to society, according to the university of Chicago Commission on the Freedom of the Press in a report "A Free and Responsible Press" published today.

The study is one of a series being prepared by the Commission which is financed by grants from "Time-Incorporated" and the "Encyclopedia Britannica Incorporated."

The Commission said press freedom is endangered due to the great decrease in proportion to the people who can express themselves through the press, because the Press has not provided a service adequate to the needs of society and because the Press has engaged from time to time in practices which society condemns.

The Commission recommended to the public that a new and independent agency be established to appraise and report annually upon the performance of the press. Such a body must be independent of Government and the Press.—United Press.

Soviet M.P. Delegates

London, Mar. 26. The Speaker of the House of Commons gave a dinner at his official residence tonight in honour of the Soviet parliamentary delegation now visiting Britain. Mr. Attlee and Cabinet Ministers were present.

Earlier in the day, members of the Soviet delegation were guests of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth, where they visited Nelson's flagship "Victory" and the battleship "Howe," now being used for training recruits.

Bad weather prevented a visit in motor torpedo-boats to the aircraft-carrier "Illustrious" at Spithead, where they would have seen a flying display in the Channel.—Reuter.

other high-flown names will have to be liquidated as rapidly as possible.

By parasites, he said, he meant "young people in France of whom there are many who prefer dabble in the black market, illegal trafficking in goods and money rather than work"—United Press.

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

EASTER RACE MEETING

Saturday 5th and Monday 7th April, 1947.

The First Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the first race will be run at 2.00 p.m. each day.

Through numbers (10 Races—\$32) may be obtained at the Office of the Treasurer, 1st Floor Exchange Building, also tickets for the Special Cash Sweep (\$2.00) on the last race on the second day, 7th April.

MEMBERS' BADGES AND ENCLOSURE.

Members are reminded that they and their ladies MUST wear their badges prominently displayed throughout the Meeting.

NO ONE WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE.

Badges admitting non-members to the Members' Enclosure and Club Rooms at \$10 each day including tax are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member, such Member to be responsible for all clubs, etc.

Badges admitting to Members' Enclosure will NOT be on sale at the RACE COURSE.

The Treasurer's Comptroller Office will close each day at 11 a.m. and the Secretary's Office at 11.45 a.m. Both Offices at 1st floor, Exchange Building.

A limited number of tickets will be obtainable at the Club House, provided they are ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 27818).

NO CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE CLUB'S PREMISES DURING THE MEETING.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE.

The price of admission to the Public Enclosure is \$3 each day including tax for all persons including ladies, and is payable at the Gate.

Bookmakers, Tie Tac men, etc., will not be permitted to operate within the precincts of The Hong Kong Jockey Club during the Race Meeting.

Refreshments will be obtainable in the Restaurant in the Public Enclosure.

SERVANT'S PASSES.

Passes for Servants will be issued to Private Box holders ONLY on application to the Secretary, 1st Floor, Exchange Building.

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Secretary.

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JUDGMENT RESERVED

If the Budget debate succeeded in nothing else, it was at least made plain to Government that the proposed Income Tax bill will be faced with the united opposition of the Unofficial Members unless it can be convincingly demonstrated that the required revenue cannot be obtained in any other way. Mr. D. F. Landale, who emphasised on the third reading of the Appropriations Bill yesterday that the Unofficials must not be understood, in giving their approval, to be committing themselves to the Inland Revenue Bill, put the position in a nutshell on Thursday when he insisted: It should only be resorted to if the revenue of the Colony really needs it. The revenue of the Colony does not yet need it. In illustration, several members used the Estimates in evidence against the Financial Secretary, and were clearly far from satisfied that there would, finally, be a levy of \$16,000,000 between revenue and expenditure which Income Tax would be required to make up. Rightly enough, Mr. F. follows budgets for safety, but there is a strong suspicion that the figure of \$16,000,000 was set down because, by sheer coincidence, it happened to be sufficient to cover the deficit which otherwise might have appeared in the accounts. There is a strong suspicion, too, that the actual revenue from this source, calculated on the standard rate originally proposed, was expected to be considerably higher. There is a further suspicion that the Colony's financial authorities would be more than willing to be found out in heavy discrepancies between Estimates and Actual Revenue next year, as they have been this, provided of course that the inaccuracies prove to be equally favourable to the final result. The Colony has had so much experience of this manner of governmental accountancy that it is not easily hoodwinked, and it responds sceptically to pessimistic forecasts. His Excellency the Governor's speech, closing the debate on the second reading, held out no hope that the Tax on Earnings and Profits will be held in suspense. He did, however, offer a small crumb of comfort, pointing out that what he described as "the important question of the standard rate" remained to be settled, thereby justifying an inference that the level will be lower than was at first contemplated. The public attitude in such an event will depend, of course, on the extent of the concession. There is no doubt in any reasonable mind that Income Tax can be the most equitable form of taxation, placing the burden where it can best be borne. It is, however, imperative that the proper machinery be installed, adapted to local conditions and perfected. Until this has been done, and it cannot be done otherwise than by the hard way, adjustment by trial and error in actual operation, it would be manifestly unfair to apply tax at a punitive level on the relatively small proportion of taxpayers who would automatically be caught at the first cast of the net. If, on the other hand, the tax were set at a low level, say a ten per cent. standard rate, the strength of the opposition would, we feel sure, sensibly diminish. There is a sufficient residue of goodwill towards Government and of commonsense among those certain to be affected to accept such a level in good spirit, regarding the early days of Inland Revenue administration as experimental, and as an experiment worth paying for if, finally, its machinery can be geared to fullest efficiency. What might follow that achievement would presumably depend upon revenue needs. But speculation on such lines is, in any case, irrelevant to the argument. The whole case against Income Tax falls to the ground the moment it can be proved that it can be collected in equitable proportions. The thing lacking at the moment is any such proof, or even probability.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW

DESIGN FOR FREEDOM MISSING FIRE

The present-day House of Commons presents an extraordinary paradox in that the more bitterly partisan it grows the more blurred do the lines of party demarcation become. It would appear also that despite its shabby facade, the Labour Government is still strong enough to withstand all direct frontal assaults, so the Opposition are considering infiltration methods. These observations are prompted by the issue of a manifesto written by Peter Thorneycroft, Conservative M.P. Monmouth, entitled "Design For Freedom" which captured lots of advance publicity and which in brief aims at achieving an anti-Labour bloc by uniting the Conservatives with Liberals.

There have been months of tactical manoeuvring behind this move. It began with a suggestion during a previous crisis in the Labour Government's uneasy period of office to the effect that now was the time for all men of goodwill to come to the aid of the country. In short, certain men were flirting with the idea of reverting to Coalition Government. At that time there were a number of robustly independent Labour M.P.s who were giving their whips heart attacks. This encouraged a belief in certain quarters that the Government might welcome a way out of its difficulties. But the rebels were quietened and the National Government scheme fell flat.

No Coalition

When the coal blizzard came to give Mr. Attlee's administration another rocking any hopes of reviving that particular scheme were publicly killed when Mr. Churchill sardonically ejaculated "No Coalition" during Mr. Shinwell's explanation of the fuel muddle and Mr. Attlee in a later speech outside the House dismissed the idea as "absurd".

Then came a spate of advance publicity about Mr. Thorneycroft's Design For Freedom manifesto which it was stated had already been endorsed by a number of influential Conservative and Liberal signatures. This time the coalition idea had been switched round to unite these two parties in a joint army to defeat Socialism. But you can take it as fairly certain that this scheme will get no further than the last scheme.

His party chiefs tried to placate him some time ago with a seat on their Policy Committee and the chairmanship of famous 1922 Committee but Peter decided he had a better chance if he remained aloof. His internal opponents seized his refusal to these overtures to get Mr. Churchill on their side and young Thorneycroft got such a rough handling at a Conservative Parliamentary Party meeting that the few Liberals who were flirting with his notions began to take fright and eventually Mr. Clement Davies the Liberal leader came out with a colloquial statement, "any coalition means the death of the Liberal Party."

Into W.P.B.

Thus it may be anticipated that Design For Freedom will go the same way towards the paper basket as went Harold Macmillan's "Reconstruction" effort in 1933 to unite the left wing Conservatives with the right wing Liberals. But while we can dismiss these things at present as mere incidents, they

should be noted for future reference as significant straws in the Parliamentary wind. Our nation is painfully weaving out newer conceptions of the democratic way of life and we are at least fortunate in the fact that our form of Parliament gives every citizen ample opportunity of observing how these developments are shaping. Meanwhile, this week has seen M.P.s losing their tempers over subjects so far apart as Tommy Handley, Lord Wavell, Beer in British Restaurants, N.A.A.F.I. Cigarettes in B.A.O.R. and Bevin's Palestinian disappointment.

Lord Wavell's affair came as a sudden unexpected boxing match between Attlee and Churchill in which the latter came out of his corner swinging metaphorical whirlwind punches while the Prime Minister stubbornly refused to do more than go into a clinch.

At the moment the chief outlines visible through the fog are on the one side, the Opposition shock at the notion of losing India after two hundred years of British rule and on the other side the Labour Government insistence that the only way to bring an endless series of deadlocks to issue is by this advance notice that we positively intend to quit not later than June 1948. Tactically Government is strongly placed in argument.

Opponents have frequently castigated them for failing to take a firm line of policy, and neglecting to announce this clearly in advance. Mr. Attlee now says "Well I have done this over India. Would you prefer me to continue a policy of aimless drift?"

Palestine

The other foreign policy scrap in the Commons is over Palestine, but here again the main feeling is one of sympathy with those who have struggled in vain to achieve a solution of long standing problems. Mr. Bevin, like Wavell, has tried every visible expedient to reconcile intransigent parties though in his case he has achieved something in the nature of a personal advantage from a situation. A couple of months ago men in his own party were clamouring for his head on a charger. When he met them at the first private Parliamentary Labour Party meeting since his return from America the rebels were in curiously subdued mood and accepted his stated intention to refer the Palestinian question to the United Nations with practically no objections. Mr. Churchill of course pursues his theme of "giving away the Empire" but he does not find it easy to convince the country as a whole that we should continue to pin down British soldiers in such dangerous areas if containing groups in India and Palestine decline so positively to agree among themselves on compromise solutions.

Human Side

That is the human side of the matter. Unfortunately it does not end there. Commercial interests came forcibly though not always so prominently into the picture. Grave questions of the effect which the loss of India may have on our economic situation are almost bound to emerge through the haze of quarrels between bitterly implacable religious leaders. In face of all these rather gloomy matters, members of Parliament might almost have

Spotlight Turned On Bevin

London, Mar. 27. Speculation about the future of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bevin, is now acquiring a curious urgency, suggesting that very important persons are very busy. A few days ago, the "News Chronicle" predicted that Mr. Bevin would give up the Foreign Office to become the dynamic head of Britain's production drive while tonight's "Evening Standard" predicts that he will become Prime Minister, changing places with Mr. Attlee.

Once again, Britain's press is full of Bevin.

This becomes perhaps more significant when seen against its background—the big rash of articles about Bevin, articles explicit and friendly, regardless of whether they appear in the Conservative, Liberal or Labour press—which broke out here just before the Moscow conference. It was this unexpected "bulldozer" which aroused the wonder in Parliamentary circles and led to the specific speculations which are being aired today.

Why should Conservative papers devote columns to a description of Bevin? Apart from Mr. Bevin's value (which, of course, is very great), it must be regarded as only prudent to familiarize the Conservative rank and file with the possibility of Britain having for the first time in its history a Trade Unionist as Prime Minister.

Alternatively, if Mr. Bevin is being even considered as a dynamo of Britain's production drive, it is not surprising that the "Evening Standard" might well be considered as

been said to have welcomed the fighter tonight of that twenty million pound "troops cigarettes" racket in Germany while Mrs. Mann's strictures on "that twerp" Tommy Handley came as a positive Godsend, and Mr. Strachey's uncomfortable time with the teetotal section of the Labour Party over the decision to sell intoxicants in Civic Restaurants appear now in retrospect as being no bigger than the proverbial storm in the tea cup.

These are indeed hot days at Westminster which usefully set off the coldness outside. Which reminds me that Mr. Attlee's statements to the Commons on the progress of the coal battle have been received with phlegmatic calm. Members feel particularly indebted to the miners who have so nobly turned up trumps in working week-ends to get much needed coal to pit heads and everyone echoes Mr. Attlee's tribute to them and the men on ships and surface transport who cooperated so energetically in distributive measures.

Chou En-Lai In Kolan

Peiping, Mar. 27. Chinese newspapers carried a report today that Chou En-lai, No. 2 Communist, had fled to Kolan, 200 miles north-east of Yenan, where 60,000 Reds are said to have massed under Gen. Peng Teh-huai, Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Communist armies of China.

A mile are around Yenan of Communist points has been mopped up by Nationalist forces, who are now preparing for an expected Red counter attack, according to Central News.

Meanwhile, in Manchuria, the Communists who have been attacking Tung Hua withdrew on Monday and turned to attack Hallung, 50 miles southeast of Chanchun, capital of Manchuria. Mukden was reported to have been plunged into darkness as the Reds destroyed a power plant at Panshih, 40 miles to the north-east. Associated Press.

Baptism In Macao

Macao, Mar. 26. The baby girl of Mr. and Mrs. Armando Saragzola Xavier, of Hong Kong, was baptized in a pretty ceremony officiated over by Fr. Artur Gonzales at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Macao on Monday.

Mr. Pedro de Alcantara Xavier, manager, Hong Kong Printing Press, performed the duties of god-father while Mrs. Rosalina Hoyol d'Almeida was god-mother.

The baby received the name of Olga Maria, and a number of friends gathered in an alfresco following the religious service.—Our Own Correspondent.

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

SEEK IMPROBABILITY

ANYBODY WOULD rather depend on a certainty than a probability, on a probability than an improbability, on an improbability than an impossibility. So it goes in the order of preference between various courses open to a declarer. The last of these choices may loom up when the opening lead against your No Trump game has knocked out your sole stopper of a five-card suit or longer. If you know the defenders are sure to take at least five tricks in case they get the lead, you must then find a way to try for nine before letting them in, even if you base your hopes on improbabilities.

S. A 8 7 2
H. 9 8 7 6
D. Q
C. K 8 5 2

S. K 4
H. K Q J
D. 5 4 2
C. A Q 3

S. 10 9 5 3
H. 1 3 2
D. 10 8 5
C. 10 9 7 4

S. Q J 9
H. A K J 7 6 3
D. A K J 7 6 3
C. J 6

(Dealer: West. Neither side vulnerable.)
West: North: East: South:
W. 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A
N. A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
E. A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
S. A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"But, Pee, he simply refuses to understand what six per cent interest means!"

U.S. Intervention In The Balkans

Many Americans have been asking whether a major war seems likely to grow out of the Greco-Turkish crisis, but there has been an absence of any expressions of "fear" in connection with such inquiries.

It seems to the general public that the United States is not

By DEWITT
MACKENZIE

"afraid" in the accepted sense of that word.

General Eisenhower assures the United States that no country at present "would deliberately provoke war."

He warns though that there always exists the possibility of an incident being precipitated by some "immature nation."

Washington has stated categorically that America's proposed aid to Greece and Turkey will not include any troops.

Lots of people, however, are wondering whether Soviet Russia might intervene with soldiers to help the Greek Communists to overthrow the Athens Government and seize control of the country.

There is no indication that any such move by Moscow is at all likely.

Last Thing

On the contrary, that is about the last thing one would expect the Soviet Union to attempt because it would be an

open and shut invitation for world war—and Russia definitely does not want war.

If that was the whole story, the world could sit back and take it easy.

But there is this fly in the ointment: Russia does not have to make a direct move in order to get military aid in the form of soldiers to the Greek Reds.

Moscow's satellites along the Greek frontier—Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria—can take care of that and are accused of so doing not only by Athens but the United States and Britain.

Greece says her civil war is being engineered and supported by her Communistic neighbors.

One Man Job

Former President Hoover declared recently that a large part of the chaos in Greece could be lifted by one man if he were willing and "that man is Marshal Joseph Stalin." It is with his power to stop the aggressive war in the form of guerrilla raids from Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albanian territory—that would bring peace to Greece.

"Then the American aid could be devoted to restoring productivity of the Greek people, instead of our wasting our generosity on military equipment."

Certainly Moscow can do anything it wishes with the Red States of the Balkans for it has them in a sack although the fiction is maintained that they are sovereign countries.

It is obvious that if the Soviet Union wanted to issue orders to them and then sit back and disclaim responsibility, it could do so, or as Hoover points out, Moscow could restrain them if it wished.

As things now stand it seems likely that Russia will pursue the middle course of letting her dogs of war run off the leash sufficiently to keep on harassing the Greeks, short of producing an open Balkan war.

Highly Explosive

The situation on the Balkan peninsula is naturally in a highly explosive state, for that reason the Big Three—Russia on the one hand, Britain and America on the other—will do everything to avoid becoming directly involved.

I think we may take it for granted that Russia will not make any move in the Balkans or elsewhere which might force somebody to reach for their gun.

That is, the Soviets won't do it now or for a long time to come because they are not prepared for a major conflict.

It must be remembered, however, that the danger of smoking cigarettes in a powder factory is that an accident may happen.

FIRE IN MACAO CINEMA

Macao, Mar. 27. Spectators in the Hopi-lung Theatre experienced an unpleasant thrill last night when fire broke out in the projecting room, causing a panic and a rush for safety.

Five women and children were removed to hospital with injuries sustained while battling their way out. The fire brigade was on the scene and managed to bring the flames under control. Our Own Correspondent.



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Programme On Road From War

Washington, Mar. 27. The U.S. War Secretary, Robert Patterson, declared today: "In my opinion the tendency of the measure to provide aid to Greece and Turkey is not in the direction of war but away from it."

He was appearing before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee which is discussing President Truman's proposal of a \$400,000,000 loan to aid Greece and Turkey.

One member asked: "Assuming that we are seeking to stop aggression by Russia is there any place where the money asked for in this bill could be used more advantageously?"

Mr. Patterson: "The area is of strategic importance and of great value and the money spent there will not be misdirected."

Replying to the proposal advanced by another committee member that the United States might consider "guaranteeing the Turkish frontiers instead," Mr. Patterson said he thought such a step would not be as effective as the aid programme.

Although the United States Government was without detailed knowledge of the Turkish military establishment as compared with that of Greece, a military mission of only 10 to 40 persons was contemplated in the case of Greece, Mr. Patterson said.—Reuter.

CYPRIOIS WANT UNION

Nicosia, Mar. 27. Stagnant demands the union of Cyprus with Greece, greeted Lord Winter, the new Governor of Cyprus, when he arrived here today in a Royal Air Force "Dakota."

Greek villagers lined the road from the airport waving banners and flags and shouting these slogans:

A large crowd of Turks gathered in the central square here and cheered the new Governor.—Reuter.

Lake Success, N.Y., Mar. 27. Paul Hunsuck, Australian representative on the United Nations Security Council, has resigned. It was authoritatively learned tonight.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S PLANNER To Develop Long-Term Scheme Making Best Use Of Manpower

London, Mar. 27.

Britain's chief industrial planner is to be 40-years old Sir Edwin Plowden who served during the war as Chief Executive in the Ministry of Aircraft Production. The creation of the post of "Chief Planning Officer" to supervise the Government's inter-departmental planning staff, was announced recently in Parliament. The Prime Minister told the House of Commons today that the inter-departmental planning staff's primary task would be to develop a long-term plan for the use of the country's manpower and resources.

Their approach must be a practical one, he added, and both sides of industry would be kept in touch with the progress of the planning.

Sir Edwin would work directly under the Lord President of the Council, Mr. Herbert Morrison, who has general charge of the Government's economic programme and would have access to all the ministers concerned with production.

Mr. Attlee said that the decisions on steps for increased production would be made by Cabinet and not by the Chief Planning Officer. The responsibility for these decisions must of course reside wholly with the ministers. Further it would, of course, be a mistake to assume that the present difficulties of under-production could be solved by planning alone—a re-

mark which was greeted with Conservative cheers. The function of planning was to enable decisions to be reached as to the best allocation of available manpower, materials, services and manufacturing capacity.

Not A Substitute

The planning in itself was no substitute for increased effort and efficiency, which were essential for Britain's national prosperity.

Sir Robert Sinclair, who is also a former chief executive of the wartime Ministry of Aircraft Production, has agreed to act as industrial consultant to Sir Edwin in the initial stages.

Sir Edwin Plowden is the director of a chemical, iron and steel firm, and was knighted in the last birthday honours list.—Reuter.

Rationing Is Out

London, Mar. 27.

Outlining some of the Government measures to build up coal stocks to 15 million tons by Nov. 1, the Prime Minister announced in the House today that there would be restrictions on the use of gas and electricity for heating rooms in residential premises during the summer.

He also said that the existing prohibition of the use of electricity for cooking and water heating during certain hours each day would be maintained with some variations and extended to

gas. Targets would be published showing each individual household and each non-essential establishment the scale of total savings they would be expected to make, both by restrictions and voluntary savings.

The Government had decided against rationing because it was complicated and difficult to enforce. The estimated efficiency during the summer might be 10,000,000 tons. The Government aim at saving 2,500,000 tons of coal by domestic and non-industrial consumers during the summer. If restrictions prove insufficient, other means, however drastic, would be taken to ensure the target was achieved.

Railway Cuts

Railway passenger services this summer would be reduced by ten per cent, giving a saving of a quarter million tons of coal. Whatever measures possible for reducing still further the export of coal for bunkering ships or other purposes would be taken and should it be possible to import coal "without unfairness to our friends in Europe" that would be done.

Declaring that 100,000,000 tons would be required during the six months up to October, Mr. Attlee said that first priority

would be given to mining machinery. The intensified recruitment campaign for mines was meeting with excellent response and the Government was confident of a steadily increased output.

TUC Statement

The Trades Union Congress Council today issued a statement on the Government's White Paper giving targets for industrial recovery from the war.

It criticised as too low the Government's target of 200,000,000 tons of coal for the current year, suggesting an immediate figure of 220,000,000 tons and the long-term one of 250,000,000.

In general, the targets "certainly appeared low if only considered from the point of view of the obvious need of the country for a large and speedy increase in the supply of goods and services of all kinds," the statement said. But in view of the present difficulties, the need was to frame targets which could be achieved. The General Council said that it was ready to consult the Government on the problems raised and appealed to the population to contribute their full part to a solution of Britain's economic difficulties.—Reuter.

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American Controls To Go

Washington, Mar. 28.

The House of Representatives voted today to scrap most of the rationing and Government controls over the use of materials.

The measure will extend to domestic allocation controls until December 31 on cinchona bark and alkaloids, antimony and streptomycin. It also retains until December 31, controls over tractors for export, materials and equipment for the expanding of foreign production of materials needed in the United States, and equipment needed to meet international obligations.

It eliminates from controls next Monday (at midnight) Manila fibre and cordage, rice, grain and grain products, imports on fats and oils, canned fish and some other products.

Separate legislation was adopted earlier this month for controls on sugar and rubber. Earlier on Thursday, the Senate voted to continue until June 30 controls on Manila fibre and cordage, cinchona bark, streptomycin, antimony, tin, rice, fats and oils.—Associated Press.

Rebels To Be Interned

Rio De Janeiro, Mar. 27.

High police authorities today said the Brazilian Government ordered the internment of two Paraguayan revolutionary leaders who arrived yesterday to present a "true picture" of the uprising.

The Paraguayans were identified as Maj. Cesar Aguirre, who led the rebels at Concepcion, and Bernardo Ozueta, a civilian delegate on the revolutionary Junta.

Both men predicted yesterday that the Paraguayan president, Dr. Morlingo, would be "ousted" by the revolutionaries. They emphasized that they did

American Probe Into Communism

Washington, Mar. 27.

Continuing testimony on Communist activities in the United States, the House Un-American Affairs Committee heard Louis E. Starr, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, propose that control of atomic energy be returned to the military to warn challengers of democracy everywhere "we mean business." At the same time, the Committee chairman, Mr. J. Parnell Thomas, said he agreed "100 per cent" with the proposal. Mr. Thomas said: "If we put the atom bomb in the hands of a group of Milquetouists, we can be sure we'll just be hurrying the day when the bomb is used against us."

He added that the position of the country today was "more dangerous" than ever before because the Communists had been permitted to obtain key Federal jobs.

Later, Mr. Starr said that when conditions become more settled, Congress may revive the Atomic Energy Commission and relegate the military to an advisory capacity.

Meanwhile, in the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, the Secretary of War, Mr. Robert Patterson, said that he knew no reason for exempting Communists from overseas war service.

Other statements presented to the House Committee on Un-American Activities included the American Civil Liberties Union's, which termed bills to outlaw the Communist Party "un-American and a threat to civil liberties." The Union asked for permission to testify before the Committee and said its opposition was not an endorsement of Communism.

Other highlights of the hearing came when two Committee

SOVIET MARSHAL DEAD

Moscow, Mar. 27.

Moscow Radio announced tonight that Marshal Fedorenko, commander of the Soviet Union armoured troops, died on Mar. 25 "after a long illness."—United Press.

Wife Condoned Adultery

London, Mar. 27.

Sir Victor Frederick William Cavendish-Bentinck, Ambassador-designate to Brazil, today lost a weeklong suit for divorce when his wife, Clothilde, was granted a judicial separation.

Mr. Justice Hodson said he must accept Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck's denial of adultery with Señor Francisco de Amato y Torres, Spanish Consul in San Francisco, while she was living in California.

Sir Charles Hodson also found the husband had not established grounds for divorce by desertion because he had refused his wife's offers to return to him from the United States.

Sir Charles said that Cavendish-Bentinck had been very frank concerning his own adultery with a series of three mistresses over a period of years and at least three extra-marital adventures of an isolated character.

"One of the curious features of this case," said Sir Charles, "is that the husband's adultery with a number of people was known to his wife and she condoned it. She had not condoned adultery with the last mistress with whom this man had been living."—United Press.

Amendments To Loan

Washington, Mar. 27.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge today offered amendments to provide strict United States supervision over the proposed \$400,000,000 Greek-Turkish programme.

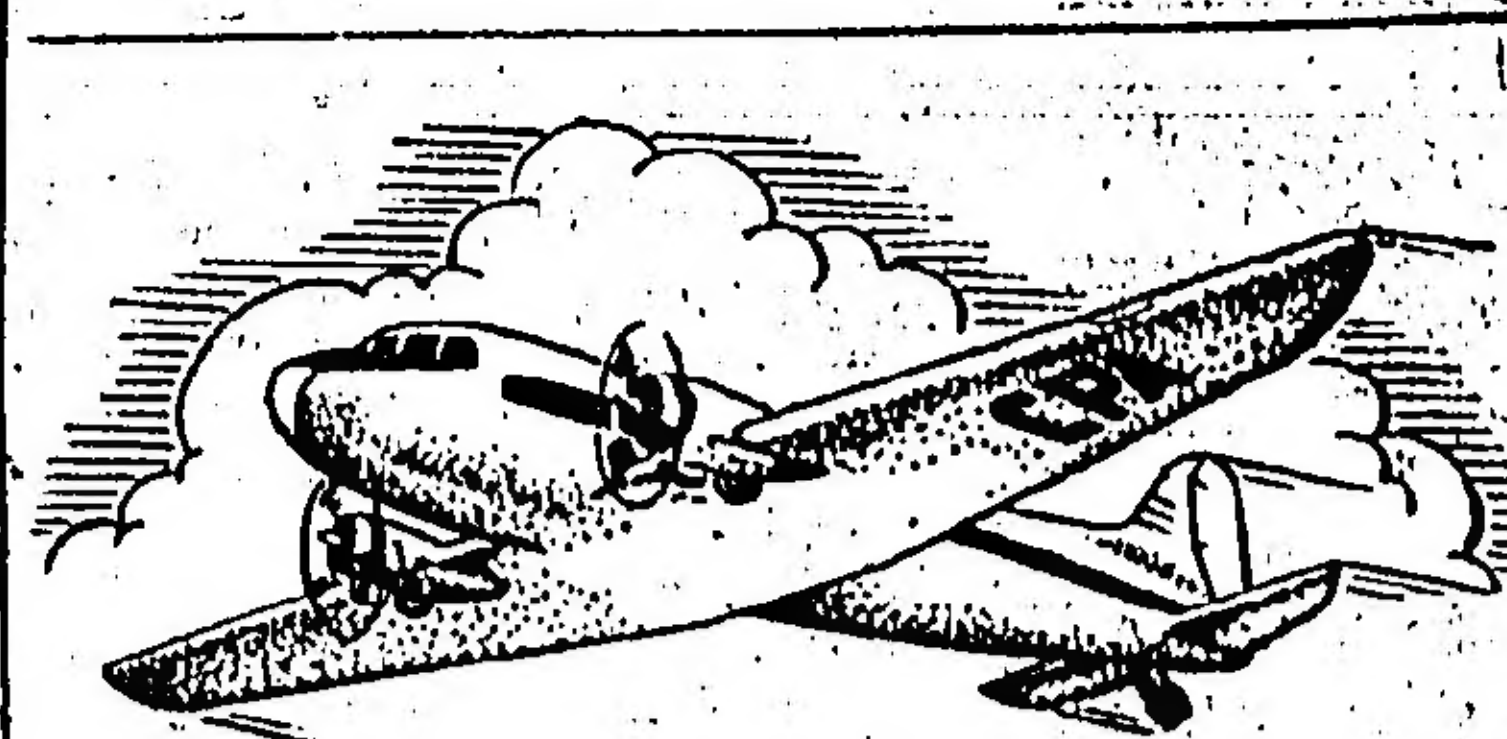
The amendments provide:—1. President Truman should appoint an administrator, working within the State Department to supervise the programme.

2. Neither Turkey nor Greece could use United States funds to make payments of loans obtained from other countries.

3. Greece and Turkey through taxation should try to support their reconstruction.

Meanwhile, the Under-Secretary of State, Willard Thorpe, said he hoped that such a programme as the proposed Turco-Greek aid can be taken over by international organizations "and the sooner the better."—United Press.

not come to Brazil to request support.—United Press.



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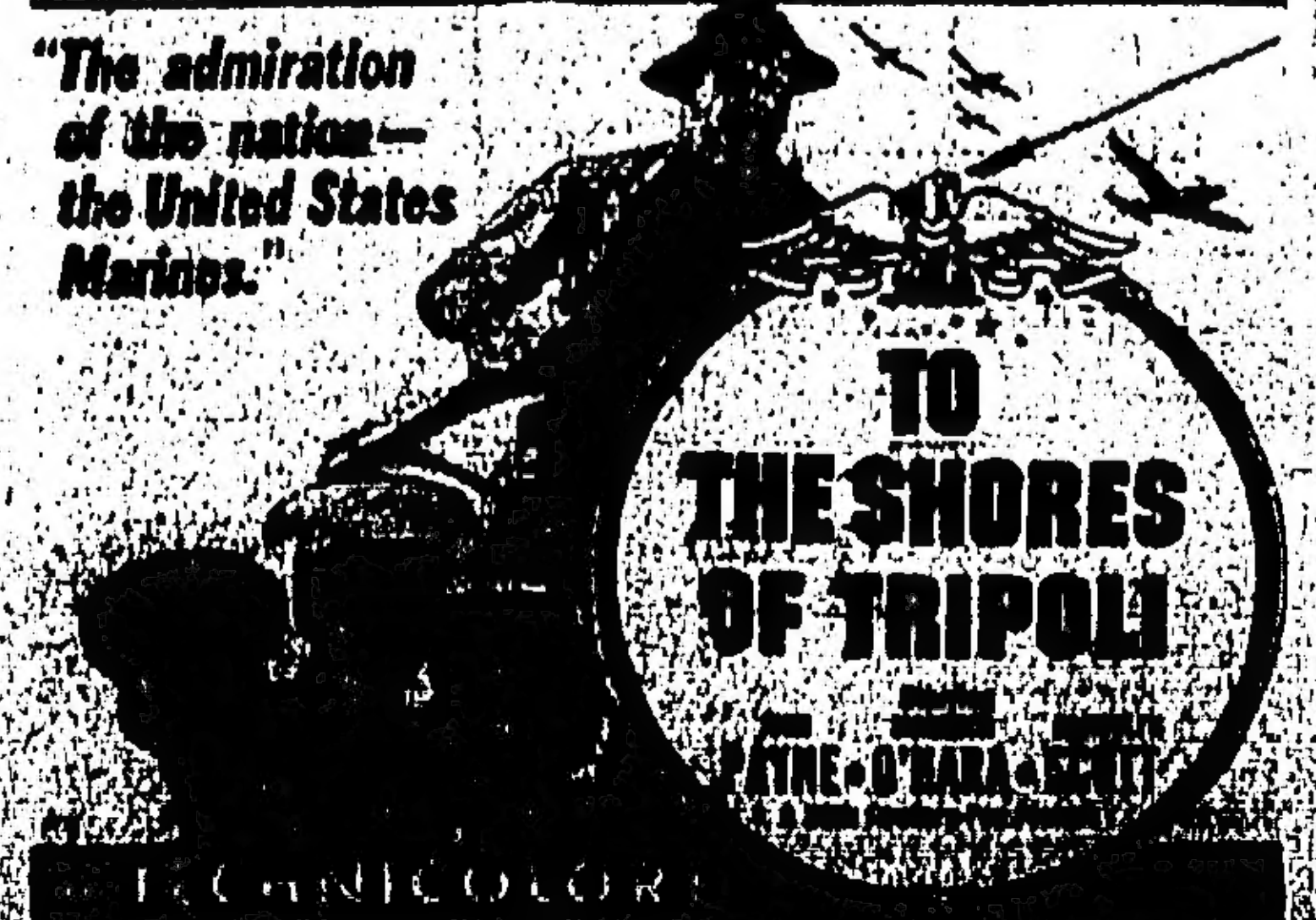
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MI-5 WEEDING OUT RED CIVIL SERVANTS?

London, Mar. 27.
Three scientist civil servants, it was disclosed today, have had promotion countermanded on the instructions of MI-5—the security branch of the War Office military intelligence. One, a temporary employee, had his recommendation for permanent employment cancelled and the promotion of two others to higher paid duties was stopped.

"It is strongly suspected that it is the colour of their politics that is regarded as non-acceptable," said an official of the Institute of Professional Civil Servants to Reuters. The civil servant scientist, who was doing temporary work qualified for employment on a permanent basis. He was notified that this was revoked without any reason being given. He is known to be a member of the Communist Party.

"We could not get any satisfaction from the Government, so we referred the matter to a negotiating body who are taking the whole thing up," the official said. "The question arises whether the action of MI-5 is not an interference with the personal liberty of a subject."

According to reports in a London evening newspaper today, some workers are connected with the development of atomic energy research. The reports followed the publication in the Communist "Daily Worker" of a statement that MI-5 had forced the dismissal of Communists from the civil service. The "Daily Worker" quoted Len White, Secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association, as the source of its report. According to Mr. White, six Communists have been discharged and five others prevented from obtaining permanent employment in the civil service. The General Secretary of the

Institution of Professional Civil Servants went this afternoon to the offices of the Treasury to discuss the question of suspension. Both he and Mr. White could not be reached this afternoon and would make no statement.

Mr. Harry Pollitt, Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain, said: "I have no evidence that military intelligence has dismissed them because they are members of the Communist Party."

Takes A Poor View
"If we find that this is so you can believe me that we shall get cracking to stop it. We should take a poor view of such bias taking place in Socialist Britain."

MI-5 is the undercover or organisation responsible in wartime and peacetime for counter-espionage and for the preservation of all State secrets, whether civil or military. "Its activities are being directed increasingly to civil affairs," an informed source told Reuters today. "It works in connection with every government department."

Some newspaper reports named the suspended or dismissed civil servants as employees of the Home Office, Admiralty and Ministry of Supply. None of these three Government departments would make any comment on the reports today and refused either to confirm or deny them.

"Secret Police"
"The secret police is an institution which the British pub-

BUDGET DAY

London, Mar. 27.
Budget day this year has been fixed for April 15—the day on which Parliament re-assembles after the Easter recess. This was announced in the House of Commons today by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons.—Reuter.

He has always imagined was to be found only in the less democratic countries," said the National Council of Civil Liberties, commenting tonight on MI-5 activity.

"Now we see one in action in Britain. The victim is not informed of the charges against him and can take no action to refute them and clear himself. The British people must protest now or they will find their civil liberties are taken from them. Let those against whom there are accusations be informed of them and let the public know too, so that all can judge the issue."

Two young women clerks, members of the Civil Service Clerical Association, are also said to have been dismissed through the intervention of MI-5.

The two women do not know what they have been dismissed for. "They were not told," said Mr. White, the General Secretary of the Association. "They are both members of the Communist Party and as in the present cases a number of previous cases persons concerned have all significantly been Communist. The assumption is that this is the reason, but we cannot get official confirmation or denial of it."—Reuter.

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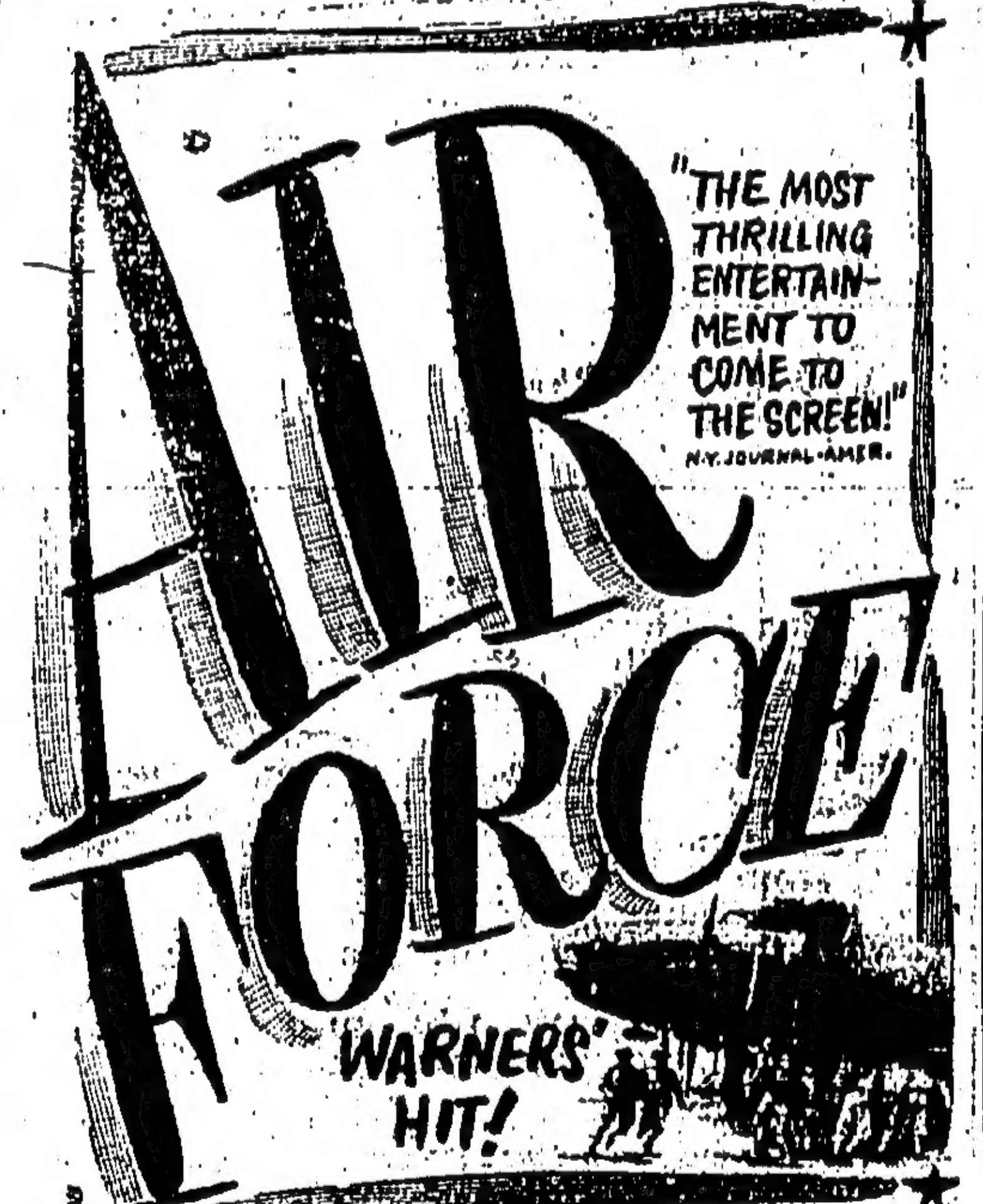
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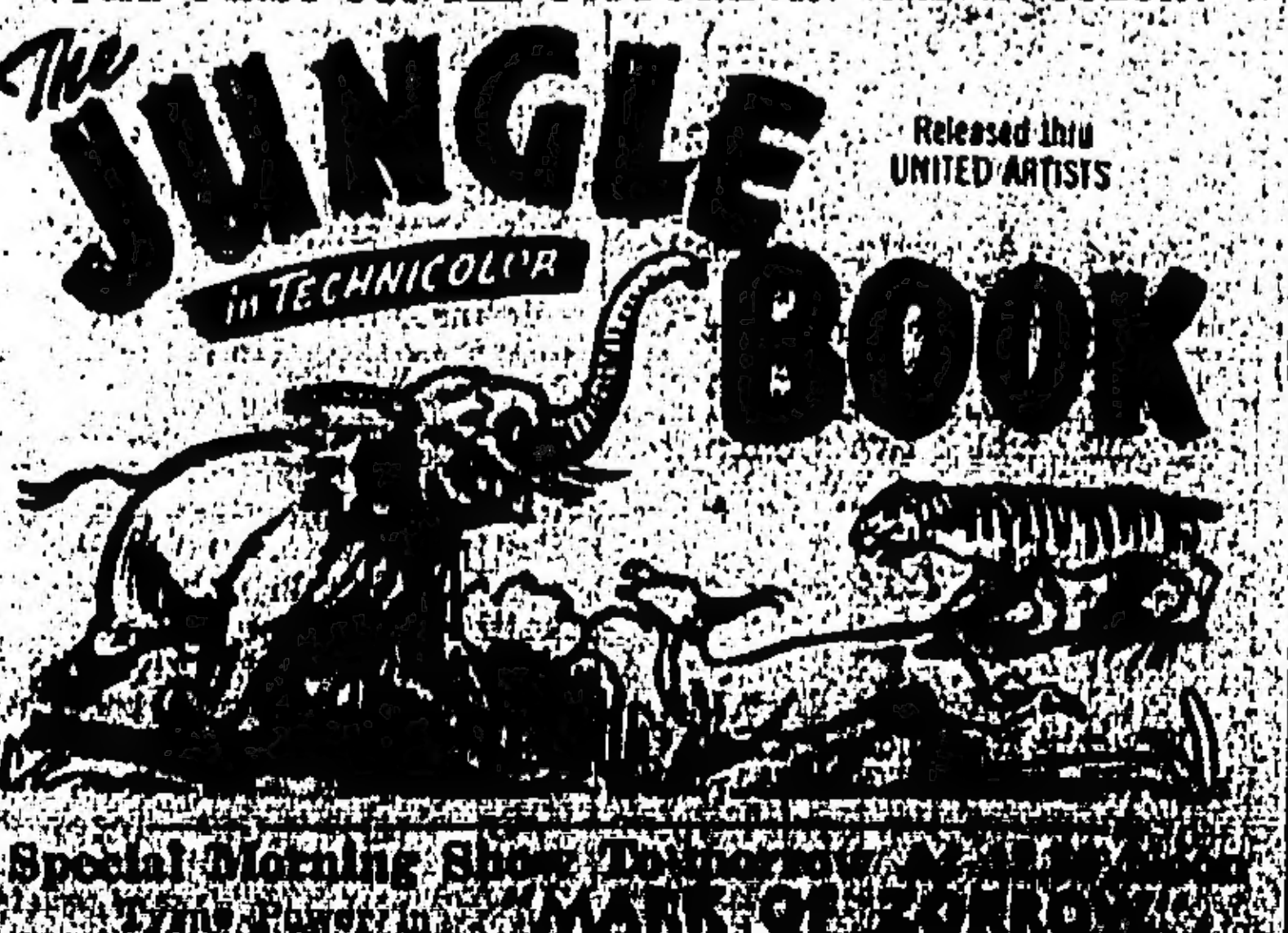
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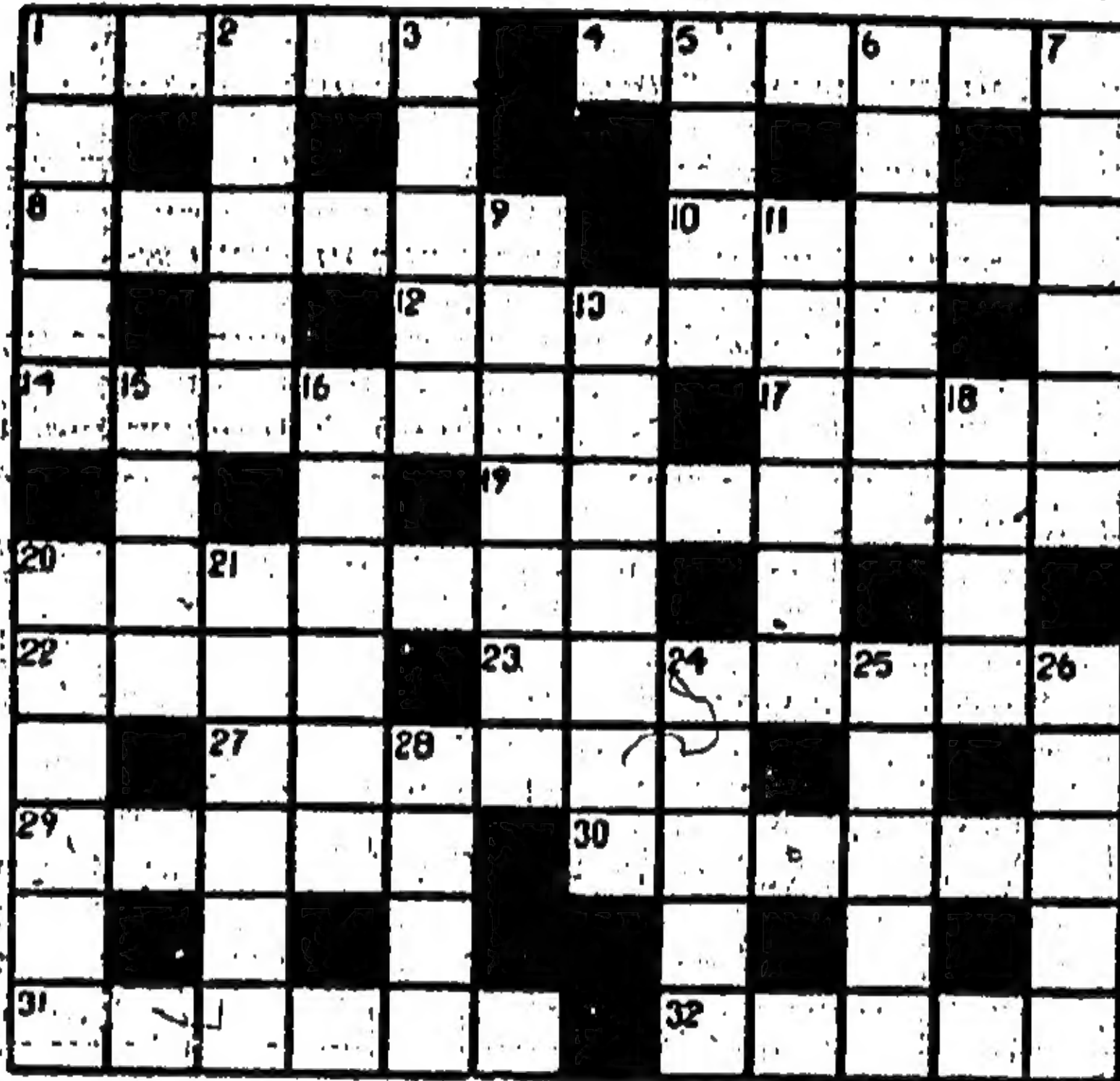
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1. Retrieve. 27. Small hunting dog. 28. Part of play. 29. Meadows. 30. Things to be corrected. 31. Portion of opera. 32. Follow.

Clues Down
1. Shropshire. 2. Passenger ship. 3. Avoid. 4. Trick. 5. Insect. 6. Rises in. 7. Taking on. 8. Infant's bed. 9. Barren. 10. Musical instrument. 11. Thrown violently. 12. Impel. 13. Fastens tight. 14. Cool courage. 15. Small bottles. 16. Good push. 17. Continent.

Yesterday's Crossword
ACROSS:—3. Eventful; 8. Leaf; 9. Militant; 11. Tribunal; 13. Then; 15. Sparkles; 16. Yarmouth; 19. Eden; 21. Bellmouth; 25. Parallel; 26. Frank; 27. Lordship. DOWN:—1. Flat; 2. Cad; 4. Levi; 23. Earn; 24. Lamp.



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